

DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

AGENDA

Meeting of Dublin City Joint Policing Committee to be held on Monday 27th January 2014 at 2.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

- 1. Minutes of previous meeting held on November 4th 2013 (attached).**
- 2. Presentation on Immigrants in Dublin City.**
- 3. Report of Assistant City Manager (Brendan Kenny).**
- 4. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner (John Twomey).**
- 5. A.O.B.**
- 6. Date of next meeting;
3rd March 2014**

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 27th of January 2014
at 2.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall, Dublin 2.

Attendance: Committee Members

Councillor Gerry Breen (Chairperson)
Councillor Edie Wynn
Deputy Kevin Humphries T.D.

Councillor Brid Smith
Councillor John Gallagher
Councillor Mannix Flynn

Mr. Brendan Kenny, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Frank Clerkin, Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána (for John Twomey, Assistant Commissioner)
Mr. Gerry Murphy, Inspector, An Garda Síochána
Mr. Zephyrin Ngaliema, The Integration Centre
Mr. Peter O'Connor, Community Policing Forum (North East Inner City)
Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Centre
Ms. Celine Reilly, Executive Manager (for Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager)

Also Present:

Mr. Fidele Mutwarasibo, Integration Manager, Immigrant Council of Ireland
Ms. Bernie Doherty, Senior Executive Officer, Dublin City Council
Mr. Martin McDonagh, Administrative Officer, Dublin City Council
Mr. Declan Hayden, Office of Integration, Dublin City Council
Mr. Hugh Coughlan, Administrative Office, Dublin City Council
Ms. Eithne Gibbons, Parking Enforcement Officer, Dublin City Council

Apologies: Lord Mayor Oisín Quinn, Deputy Catherine Byrne, Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan, Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Cllr. Larry O'Toole, Cllr. Tom Brabazon.

Minutes: Ms. Alana Dunne.

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 4th November 2013.
Order: Agreed.

Presentation by Mr. Declan Hayden – “Intercultural Dublin”.

Items discussion;

Debunking myths surrounding immigrant entitlements/anti-rumour strategy
Support for vulnerable families
Migrants Voters Campaign
Racism and reporting racist crimes
Dublin City Council's proactive role on immigration issues
Multi-cultural events and integration
Inter-faith collaboration

2. Report of Assistant City Manager (Brendan Kenny).

Action:

Dublin City Council to engage on the new consultation process around proposals to change the legislation/regulations on the issue of disposal of waste tyres.

Eithne Gibbons reported on the issue of creating new bye-laws on the regulation of rickshaws. The Garda Síochána indicated their full commitment to the enforcement of such bye-laws.

3. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner (Frank Clerkin).

Order: Noted.

4. A.O.B

The chairperson reported on the issue of "Community Courts" which is currently being pursued by the Dublin City Business Association. A seminar on the issue is being held on Wednesday 29th January.

The Chairperson also reported on an initiative in his North Central Area in relation to "Cash for Cars" illegal advertising with collaboration between the City Council and An Garda Síochána.

The Chairperson said that the next meeting will likely be the final JPC meeting of this 5 year Council term, and that it was an opportunity to review progress on that period.

5. Date of meeting; 3rd March 2014.

Order: It was proposed to postpone the meeting to a later date in March. Date to be decided by the Chair.

Chairperson
Councillor Gerry Breen
Date

**Joint Policing Committee
Monday 27th January 2014
Report of Assistant City Manager, Brendan Kenny**

Guidelines for the operation of JPC Sub-Committees

This City Joint Policing Committee agreed new local guidelines for operational and organisational matters around the various JPC sub-committees that have developed in the City over the last few years. These guidelines as approved by the City JPC have been considered by the area sub-committees and there is sufficient flexibility in them to allow these Sub-Committees to cater for local circumstances etc.

We did report to the JPC last year that the Department of Justice was carrying out a comprehensive review of the National Guidelines for JPC's and all the stakeholders involved had an opportunity to be part of that review. The review is now completed and Local Authorities will be shortly informed of the outcome and this will lead to the publication of revised National Guidelines that will clarify how the JPC's should carry out their business into the future. We will bring the new guidelines to the Committee as soon as we receive them and we can then consider if we need to agree some local organisational guidelines to augment the national template to ensure that there will be a streamlined and pragmatic approach.

Bye-laws for operation of Rickshaws in the City:

A draft set of bye-laws for the control of rickshaws was brought to the City Council in December 2012. The period of public consultation commenced on 7th January 2013. The response to the bye-laws has been favourable in that the need for some regulation of the increasing number of rickshaws on city streets is recognised. The draft bye-laws are broadly accepted with some minor changes to certain clauses required. The operation of two types of rickshaws has been identified.

Type 1 A battery assisted rickshaw that requires the cyclist pedalling at all times. It is considered that this type of rickshaw falls outside the definition of mechanically propelled vehicle and because the vehicle cannot be operated by mechanically/electrical power alone. This type of rickshaw, therefore falls outside the Taxi Regulation Act regime and can be dealt with under the bye-laws.

Type 2 Throttled operated rickshaws. It is considered that this type of rickshaw falls within the definition of a mechanically propelled vehicle and therefore is a requirement to be licensed under the Taxi Regulation Act 2013. This type of rickshaw will be operating illegally if they don't have a Vehicle and Driver Licence from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for small public vehicles. In this regard, the NTA Enforcement Officers can deal with the throttle operated rickshaws.

The outstanding issue is that of enforcement of the bye-laws for the Type 1 rickshaw and the Garda Síochána and the Traffic Department are working towards agreement on the practicalities required for the actual enforcement of these bye-laws.

Disposal of waste tyres:

At the April 2013 meeting of this Joint Policing Committee we reported on the issue. All suppliers of tyres to the Irish market whether a manufacturer, wholesaler, supplier, trader, retailer or any authorised collector of waste tyres operating in the functional area of Dublin City Council and have not registered with either of two National approved compliance schemes (one in Dublin and one in Limerick) then they are obliged to register and thereafter register annually with the Local Authority.

TRACS - This is the Tyre Recovery Activity Compliance scheme which came into operation in January 2008 following new Waste Management Regulations. This is a voluntary compliance scheme for the tyre industry to monitor the movement of tyres, gather data, and to promote legitimate re-use and recycling of waste tyres. By joining TRACS, tyre industry operator suppliers and waster collectors will fulfil their obligations under the regulations. TRACS do not have enforcement powers. Enforcement is a matter for the Local Authority (Waste Management). Dublin City Council Waste Management enforcement staff regularly visit tyre manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, fitters and collectors premises to ensure that the regulations are being complied with. They also strongly advise that the public and business's to ensure that when employing a waste collector that such collector holds a valid collection permit.

While it is not possible to give exact figures for tyres as materials collected were co-mingled it is conservatively estimated that in excess of 1,200 tyres were collected or burned in the course of Halloween 2013. However the number of bonfires and emergency callouts were down on previous years which can be attributed to the excellent joint working of Gardai and City Council staff.

Estimates of the percentage of waste tyres unaccounted for in Ireland range from 24% to 51%.The corresponding figure for the EU is just 4% therefore it is clear that the current system is not functioning as intended. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government have begun a consultation process with a view to proposing new legislative measures on this issue.

Motorcycles / Quads on parks and open spaces

The introduction of regulations/bye laws on the issue is on the Government's legislative programme.

Retail licensing/permission for sale of alcohol

We will invite Senior representatives from the Planning Department to present at the next JPC meeting on this issue.

Control of Street Performance on City Streets

Draft bye-laws to bring some regulation to this issue have been prepared by Dublin City Council and the period for consultation and submissions has now expired.

We will bring a revised draft of these proposed Guidelines to the next meeting of our Strategic Policy Committee on Arts and Culture.

Aggressive Begging on the Streets

This issue together with other problems around public disorder etc. on Dublin City streets is being actively addressed by the City Business Policing Forum (Chaired by the Lord Mayor) and by Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive. Recommendations from the statutory group will be brought to the February meeting of the City Business Forum.

Safety Awareness Campaigns

The Committee may consider it worthwhile in 2014 to re-activate the campaigns that were implemented last year e.g.

- Safety in the Home
- Prevention of Mobile Phone Theft
- Public Disorder
- Night time economy

Chuggers

Following consideration of this issue by the City JPC during 2013, I did meet with a number of the principal charities that fundraise from activity on the streets and our concerns were relayed to them. There is a need for overall regulation of Charity work and this was proposed in the Charities Act 2009 which is strongly supported by the Charities themselves. For a number of reasons, including the cost implications this legislation has not yet been enacted. The indications now are that significant elements of this legislation will be implemented shortly.

Bye-Laws for Cyclists (misuse of rules of the road).

The Government have indicated that it intends using the Traffic Regulations to cater for enforcement of this issue in the forthcoming Legislative Programme..

Illegal “Cars for Cash” signs

The North Central Area Local JPC Sub Committee is working on a special initiative through the Gardai and Dublin City Council with a view to elimination this advertising practice in that area.

Brendan Kenny
Assistant City Manager
27th January 2014

Joint Policing Committee

Monday 27th January 2014

Report of Assistant Commissioner John Twomey Dublin Metropolitan Region.

At this first meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2014 I intend to concentrate on the following topics,

- Crime and Traffic statistics
- Review of Policing in 2013
- Policing Plan for 2014.

During the months of December and January An Garda Síochána was responsible for the policing of the Christmas Festivities and a number of events such as New Years Eve Concert in the City Centre. I am happy to report that there were no serious incidents and each of the events and the Christmas period passed off peacefully.

Crime

Since my last report, the number of property crimes has shown a decrease in December 2013. Burglary finished the year with a slight decrease on the previous year. However, there was a slight increase in December 2013. In line with the overall decrease in property crime, Theft from the Person which was a challenge throughout the year has shown a decrease during the month of December.

Traffic

At the time of writing this report the number of people killed on the roads of the Capital is one compared with two for the same period in 2013. As outlined previously the area of Road Safety continues to be the subject of ongoing discussion with my Senior Management Team. During the Christmas period An Garda Síochána carried out Targeted High-Profile traffic operations to address the key lifesaver offences of Drink-Driving, Speeding the use of Mobile Phones while driving and seatbelts. The Christmas Enforcement campaign was also in operation during the Christmas period.

Review of Policing in 2013

1. Crime

Over all Crime in 2013 saw a 4% decrease when compared to 2012 figures. In respect of property crime, violent property crime experienced no change in 2013 when compared to 2012, while other property crime experienced a slightly increase of 3%. Within that category Burglaries experienced a 6% decrease in 2013 when compared with 2012. Thefts continue to be a challenge looking forward to 2014 and Gardai will continue to focus on this area. Public Order offences continued to trend downwards with 2013 finishing 18% below 2012 figures. Crimes Against the Person have also decreased by 8% and are maintaining at a level which is well below the 3 year average.

A number of specific Operations were put in place during 2013 to tackle various crime categories that were a cause of concern. These operations were intelligence led and targeted at the areas of concern. In addition to human resources the operations included the optimal use of technology; crime analysis and crime mapping strategies and close cooperation with the communities we serve. These operations will continue into 2014 to maintain a focus on the key challenges ahead.

2. Partnership

Partnerships formed a very important part of our policing strategy in 2013, through a variety of community initiatives. Of particular success last year were the Garda 'TAG' Programme and Late Night Football Leagues with the FAI and the Local Authorities. Gardai identified a number of issues, including Anti-social behaviour and public disorder in the night time economy, and begging, which are currently being addressed in cooperation with Dublin City Council. These partnerships and alliances will continue through 2014.

During 2013 I introduced a Dublin City-Centre Policing plan which is a High Visibility Policing Plan to ensure dedicated high visibility patrols in key commercial/ public thoroughfares at critical times dictated by crime trends and footfall for the areas in question. These beats will be reviewed to ensure they address existing demands and the needs of the community.

Policing Plan for 2014

The Annual Policing Plan 2014 for the Dublin Metropolitan Region is near completion. The goals reflect specific requirements for the Dublin Region and those which are outlined in the National Policing Plan. A copy of the Dublin Regional Annual Policing Plan when complete will be issued to each member of the group.

In 2014 we will strive to achieve our mission and vision by forging stronger links with the community through initiatives such as Partnership Approach to Community Engagement (PACE) and Partnership Approach to Public Safety (PAPS).

Through these initiatives, in collaboration with all our key stakeholders from the community, the business fora and local authorities, public disorder, anti social behaviour and other community issues will be addressed. Community Policing Units and Juvenile Liaison Officers throughout the Region will continue to engage with the young people of Dublin through various initiatives incorporating sport, schools, and Youth Diversion Programmes. These initiatives will continue to be delivered through the use of Problem Oriented Policing techniques.

The 2014 plan details the ways in which we will maintain our focus and commitment to our core activities which are the prevention and detection of crime and the protection of life and property.

If you have any suggestions which you would like to be considered for inclusion in the Policing Plan please submit your suggestions to commissioner_dmr@garda.ie.

Conclusion

I have outlined above the current position in respect of crime looking back at 2013 and our plans for 2014. These initiatives are primarily focused on addressing policing issues in a collaborative manner involving our strategic partners and I look forward to developing these initiatives during the year.

Thank You